



**It's quite clear we need some more geochemistry here**

**Phil Allen**

**Mike Schmulian**

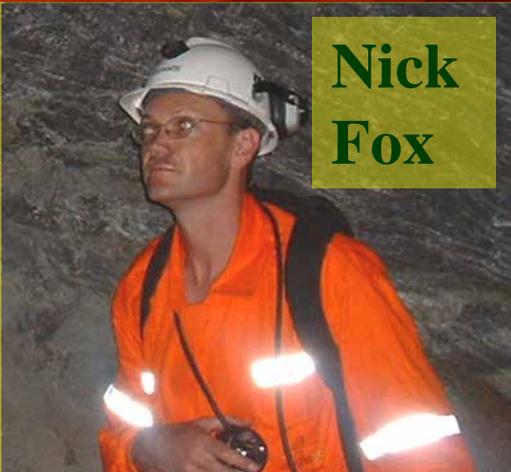
**Tim Coughlin**

**Jon Hill**

**Rod Holcombe**



**Marcio Salles**



**Nick Fox**



**Abhen Pather**

- **Assessment of previous work** especially mapping, data, stable isotopes and fluid inclusions by Vieira, Ribeiro-Rodrigues, Xavier; geochronology by Noce and Tassinari; general geology of the region e.g. Lobato et al. 2001a, b
- Underground **sampling and mapping** key features (Cuiabá), core logging and sampling (Cuiabá, Lamego, Raposos, Morro Velho), petrography, microprobe analysis of carbonates
- **Petrography, mineral chemistry and wholerock geochemistry** pertinent to ore genesis and exploration
- **Stable isotope geochemistry**
- **Zircon U-Pb geochronology** of cover sequences (Moeda and Maquine quartzites)
- **Ar-Ar in pyrite geochronology** of syn-ore basalt alteration
- **Monazite U-Pb geochronology** in cover sequence clastics
- **geochemical modelling** of ore genesis scenarios
- Fusion with local and regional **structural models**
- Development of **ore genesis model** by fusion of the above with regional and mine scale structural work

# Geochemical Analysis

PH05017766 - Finalized

CLIENT : "JAMCOOTV - James Cook University (Townsville)"

# of SAMPLES : 27

DATE RECEIVED : 2005-03-10 DATE FINALIZED : 2005-04-08

PROJECT : "Anglogold Brazilian"

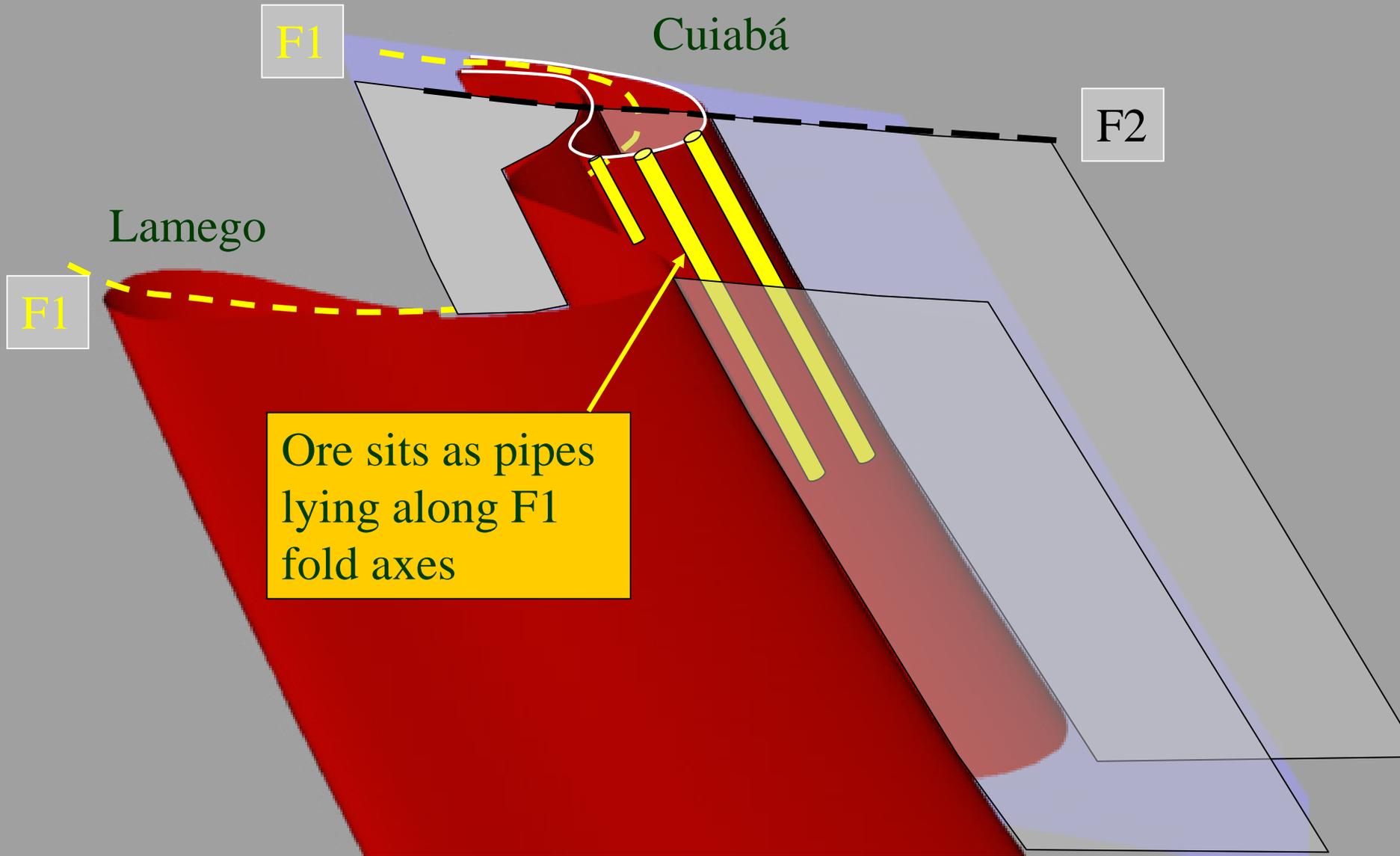
CERTIFIC/ICP-AES results shown. REE's may not be totally soluble in MS61 method."

PO NUMBER : "Per email request D Foster"

## What do I do with this?

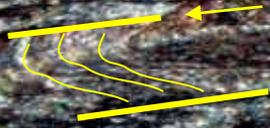
	Au-AA24	ME-MS61												
SAMPLE	Au	Ag	Al	As	Ba	Be	Bi	Ca	Cd	Ce	Co	Cr	Cs	Cu
DESCRIPT	ppm	ppm	%	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	%	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm
CU-74	<0.005	0.18	9.56	5.7	10	0.32	0.05	4.61	0.09	9.5	58.4	207	0.12	51.4
CU-75	0.005	0.22	8.87	4.7	20	0.25	0.04	4.83	0.1	14.5	62.7	225	0.11	26.7
CU-76	<0.005	0.26	9.08	22.6	60	0.26	0.04	2.75	0.1	9.68	58.5	218	0.25	112.5
CU-77a	0.045	0.25	7.33	21.3	500	1.3	0.3	3.78	2.13	40.1	44.4	261	3.18	75.6
CU-77b	<0.005	0.21	8.34	67.5	180	0.91	0.03	1.45	0.06	27.4	65.7	252	3.17	73.7
CU-78a	0.137	2.07	6.93	497	230	2.25	2.88	1.96	27.2	68.1	101	259	4.06	234
CU-78b	0.072	1.48	10.35	22.8	360	3.59	1.04	2.21	10.05	111.5	53.4	316	8.43	245
CU-79a	3.84	0.45	0.17	>10000	10	0.24	0.17	4.04	0.11	2.05	41.1	<1	0.09	10.4
CU-79b	1.19	0.25	0.25	2150	<10	0.08	0.11	8.6	0.1	2.62	21.2	26	0.09	152
CU-81a	<0.005	0.18	6.73	59	440	0.85	0.07	4.02	0.1	44.3	48.1	70	4.04	72.3
CU-81b	<0.005	0.14	6.55	56.5	80	0.77	0.04	5.22	0.06	18.2	32	59	2.84	48.2
CU-81c	0.009	0.15	5.15	47.2	40	0.5	0.05	9.07	0.06	18.85	38.3	46	1.74	69.6
CU-81d	<0.005	0.1	0.79	30	40	0.1	0.02	26.3	0.1	7.24	8	<1	0.39	0.2
MV-13d	0.05	0.61	3.01	369	120	0.61	0.59	7.03	0.13	53.8	40.4	148	2.13	243
MV-14a	0.007	0.12	2.67	110	10	0.23	0.12	14.1	0.09	8.56	13	97	0.18	2.7
MV-14b	<0.005	0.14	7.67	234	40	0.64	0.1	4.76	0.08	27.8	38.1	359	2.25	1.4
MV-14c	0.275	0.31	4.23	1145	10	0.2	0.33	0.77	0.06	20.4	16.8	142	0.23	76.8

**Exploration geochemistry is only truly useful if it is placed in the context of a comprehensive understanding of the geochemistry of the ore forming system**



Structural model of Holcombe et al: refolded folds  
(strains too low to support sheath fold model for Cuiabá)

**Regional foliation)**



Syn-foliation carb qtz boudin infill

Early fabric preserved  
in carbonate porphyroblast



**CU18 graphitic carbonatic schist, 300m into hangingwall, Cuiabá deephole**



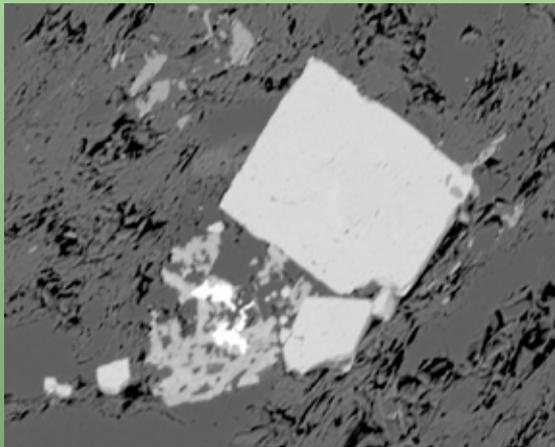
# Geochronology – Iron Quadrangle

- **Pyrite-white mica from mineralized footwall basalt at Cuiabá (Ar-Ar in pyrite, timing of ore-proximal alteration and sulphides)**



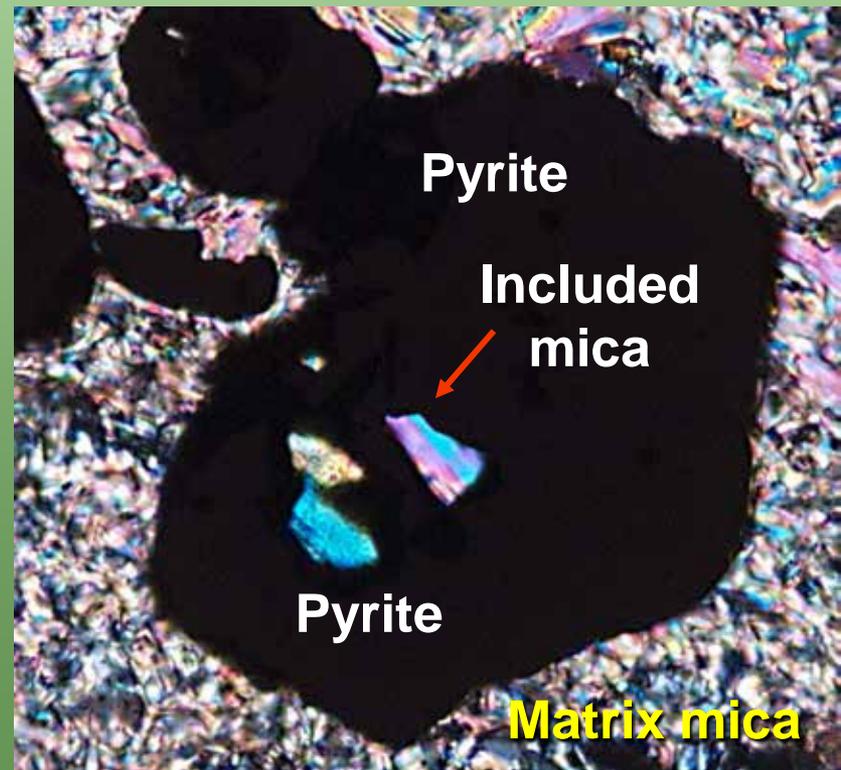
# Geochronology – Iron Quadrangle

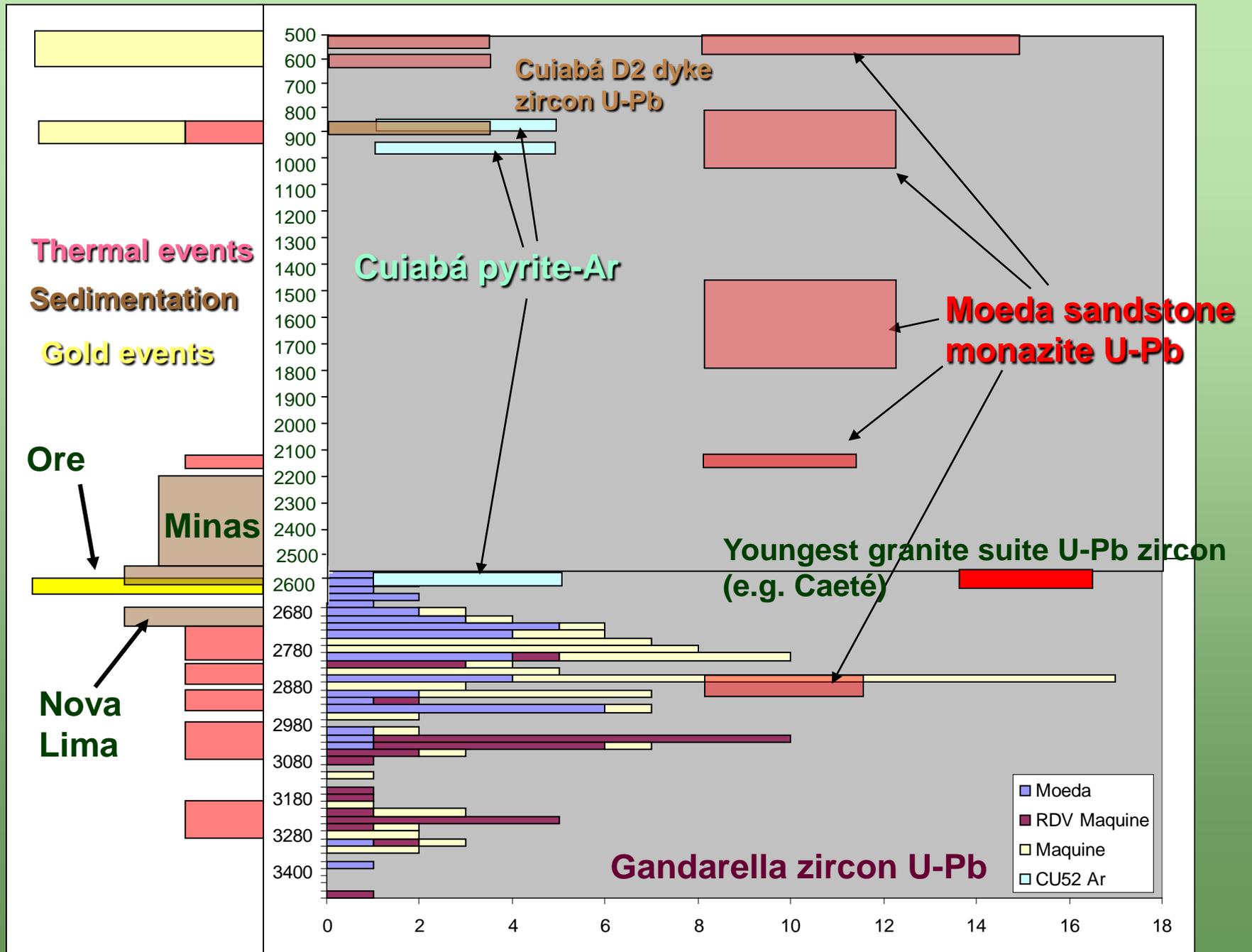
U-Pb SHRIMP (zircon) on  
overlying sandstones (Moeda  
and Maquine) and on mafic dyke  
cutting ore at Cuiabá (April Pickard,  
Mark Barley, UWA)



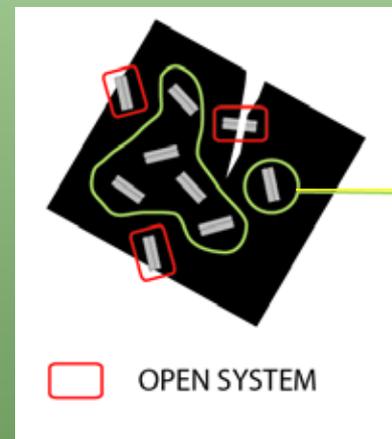
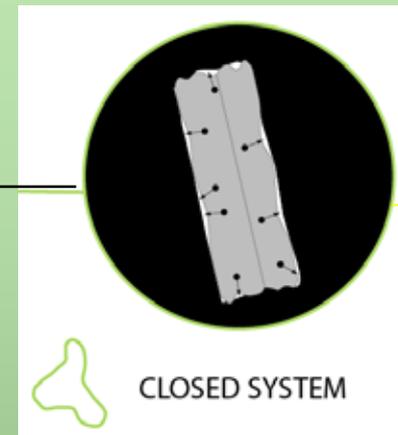
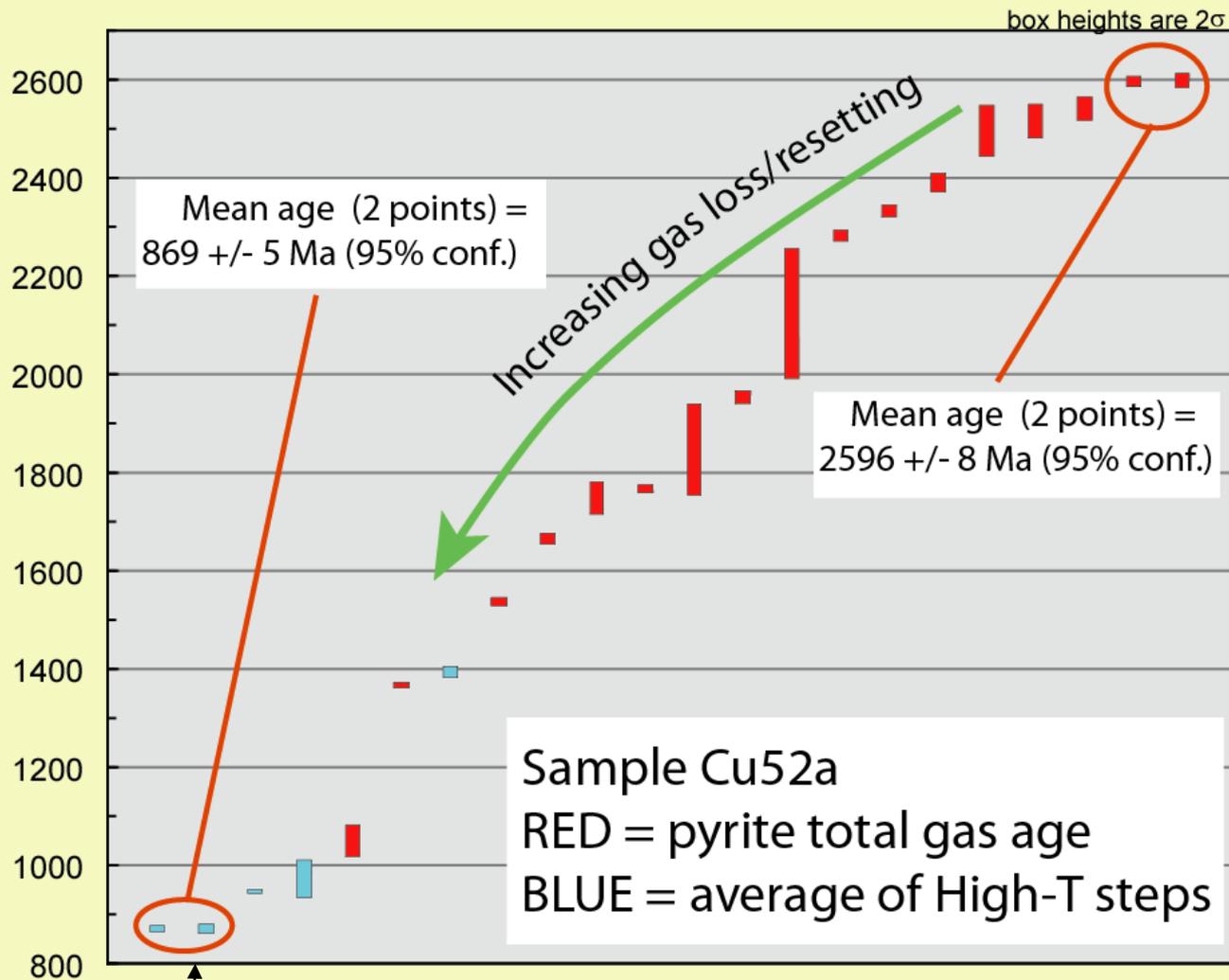
U-Pb EMPA  
(monazite) on  
same sandstones  
(Paul Evins, JCU)

Laser ablation Ar-  
Ar on alteration-  
related white mica  
included in ore  
minerals  
(John Miller, Dave  
Phillips, U. Melb)





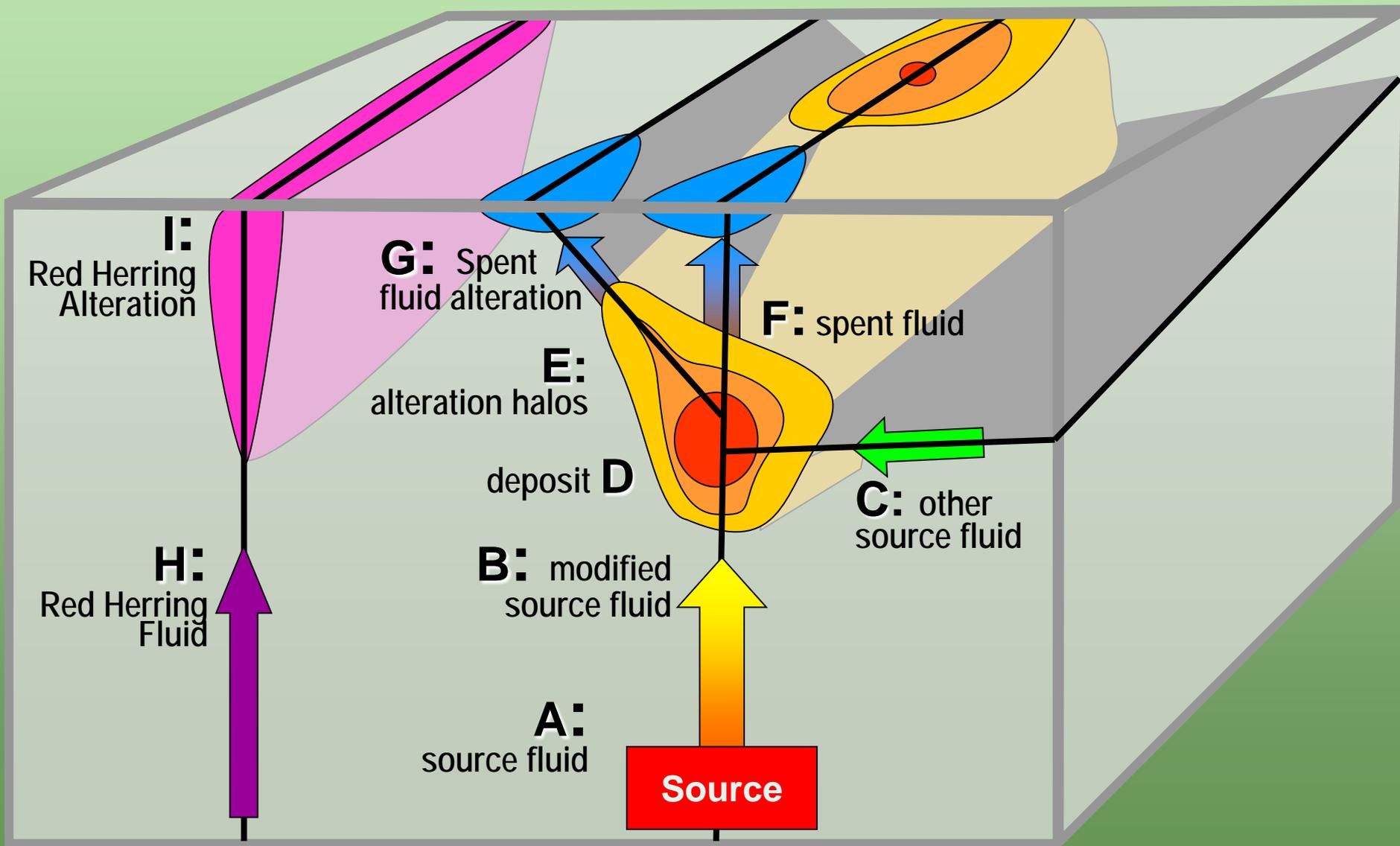
# White mica included in pyrrhotite from mineralized footwall basalt: Ar-Ar dates



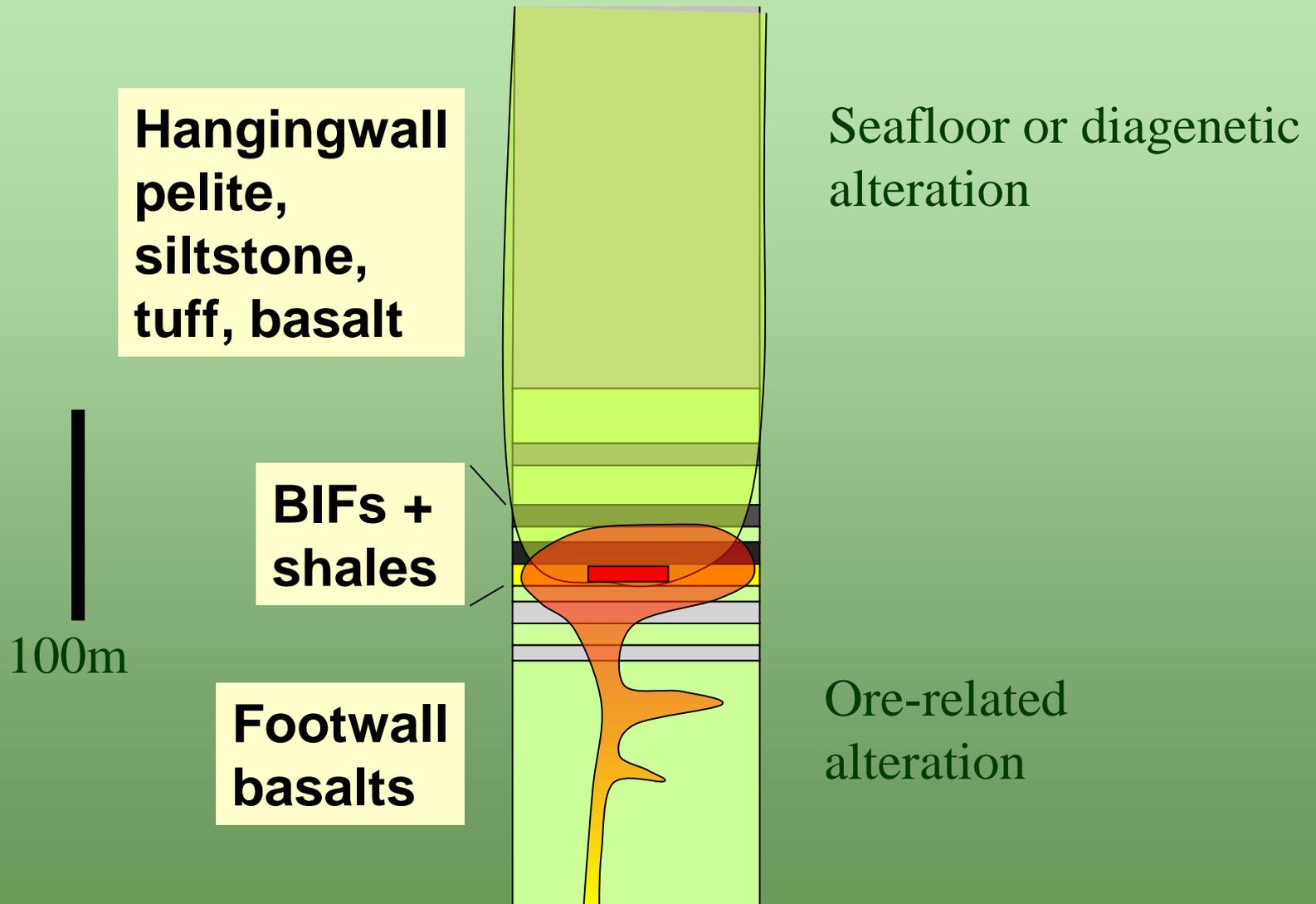


**Com licença, onde  
está o ouro?**

Use geochemistry to build up a conceptual chemical model for the ore system, based around the structural/temporal framework

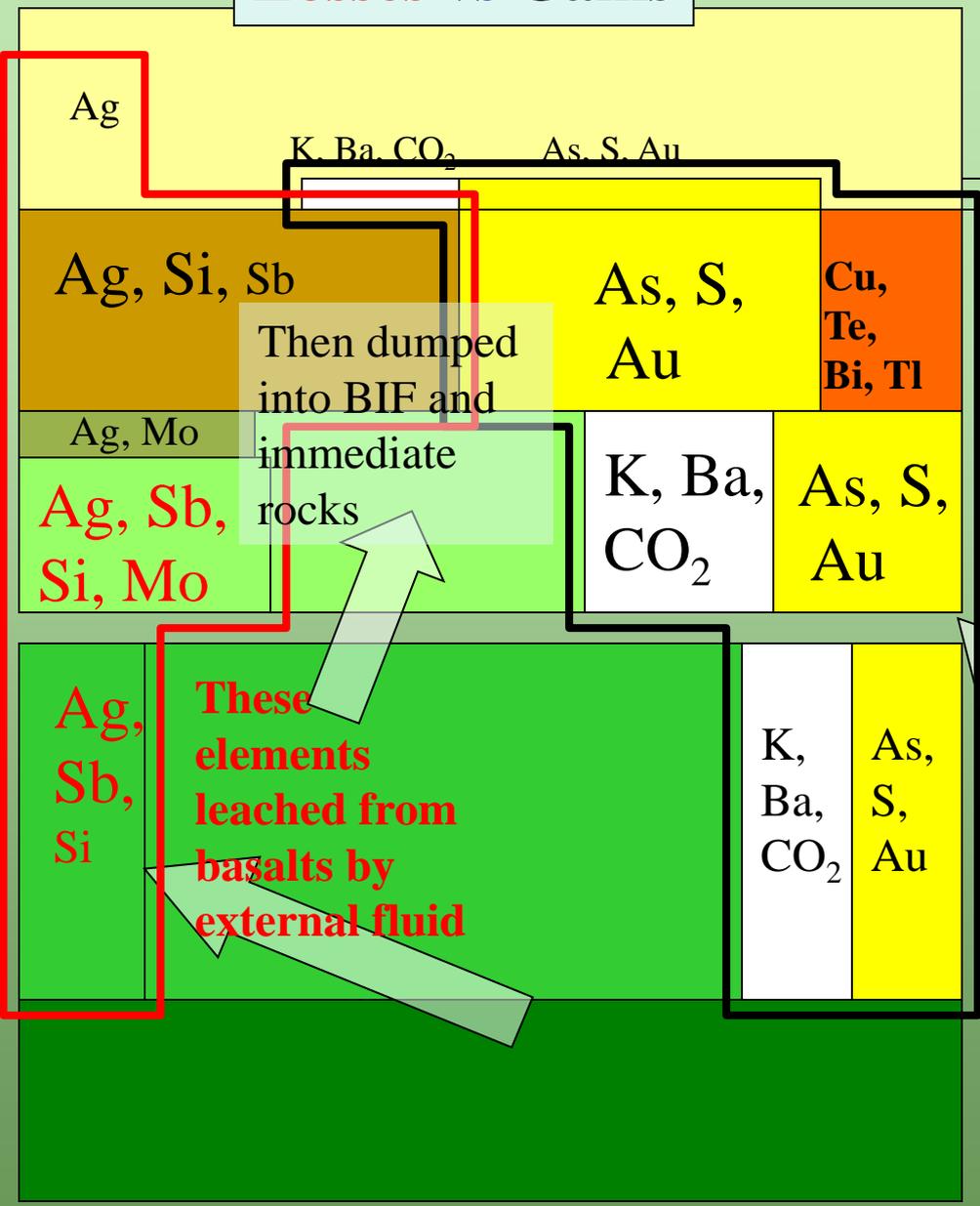


# Stratigraphy and alteration at Cuiabá



# Losses vs Gains

Shales etc.  
BIF  
Proximal intensely altered basalt  
Distal altered basalt  
"Fresh" basalt



Then dumped into BIF and immediate rocks

Hanging wall "cap"

Fe, Ca, C, Zn, Cr, Mn, Mo

These elements lost out of BIFs during ore formation

These elements leached from basalts by external fluid

These elements added to footwall basalts and BIF/ores by external fluids

External fluid

K, As, S, Au, Ba, C, volatiles, other goodies

# Key geochemical steps:

- In BIFs, graphite and magnetite get converted to carbonate, reducing the fluid



**RO7**

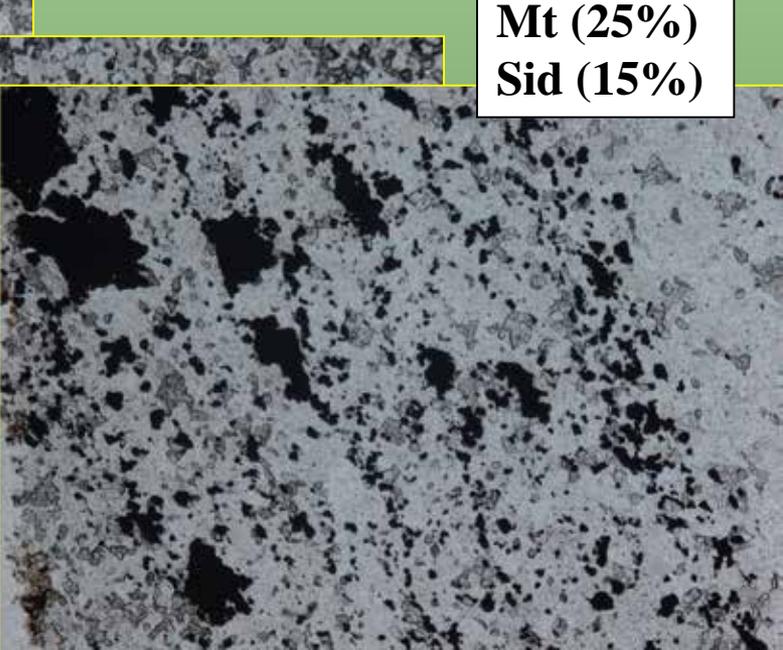


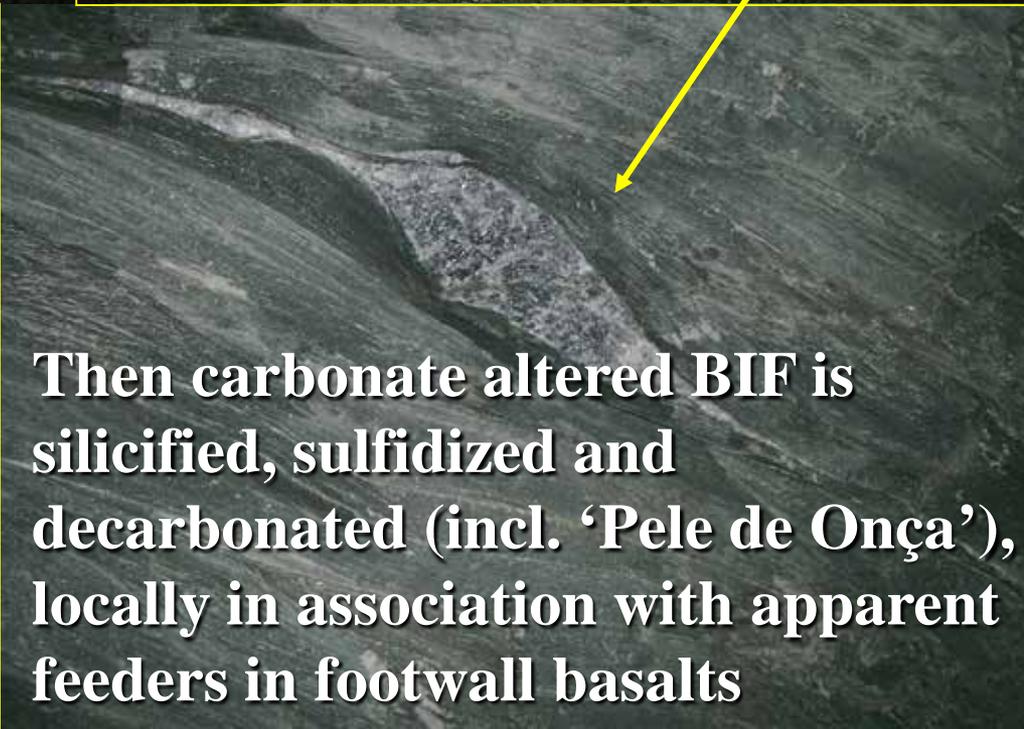
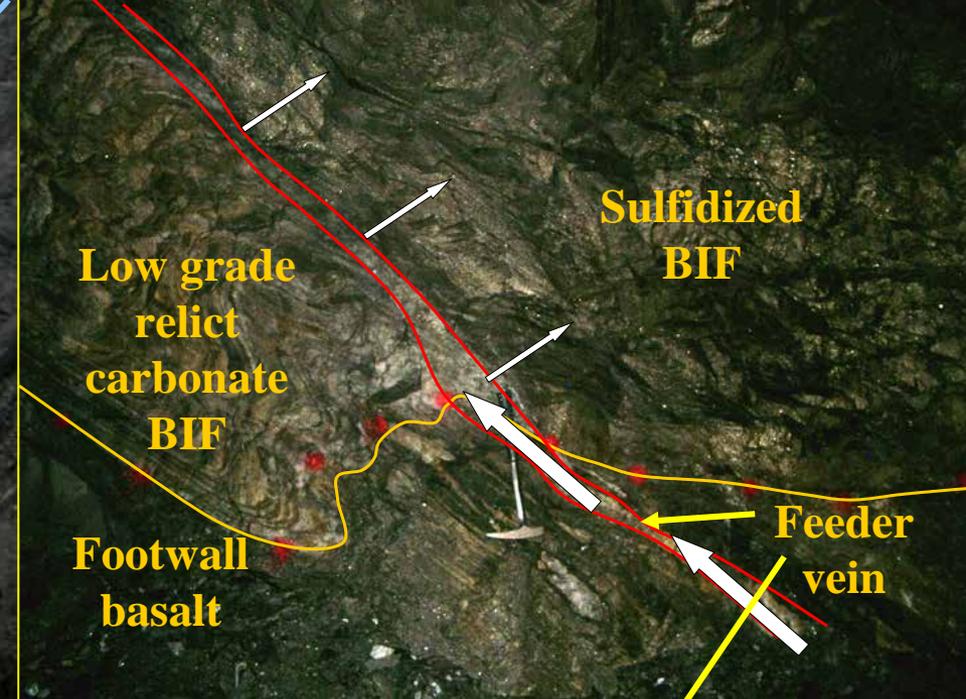
**Po 65%**  
**Qtz 20%**  
**Aspy <10%**  
**Sid <5%**  
**+ py, cpy, chl, stilp**

**Qtz (70%)**  
**Sid (30%)**

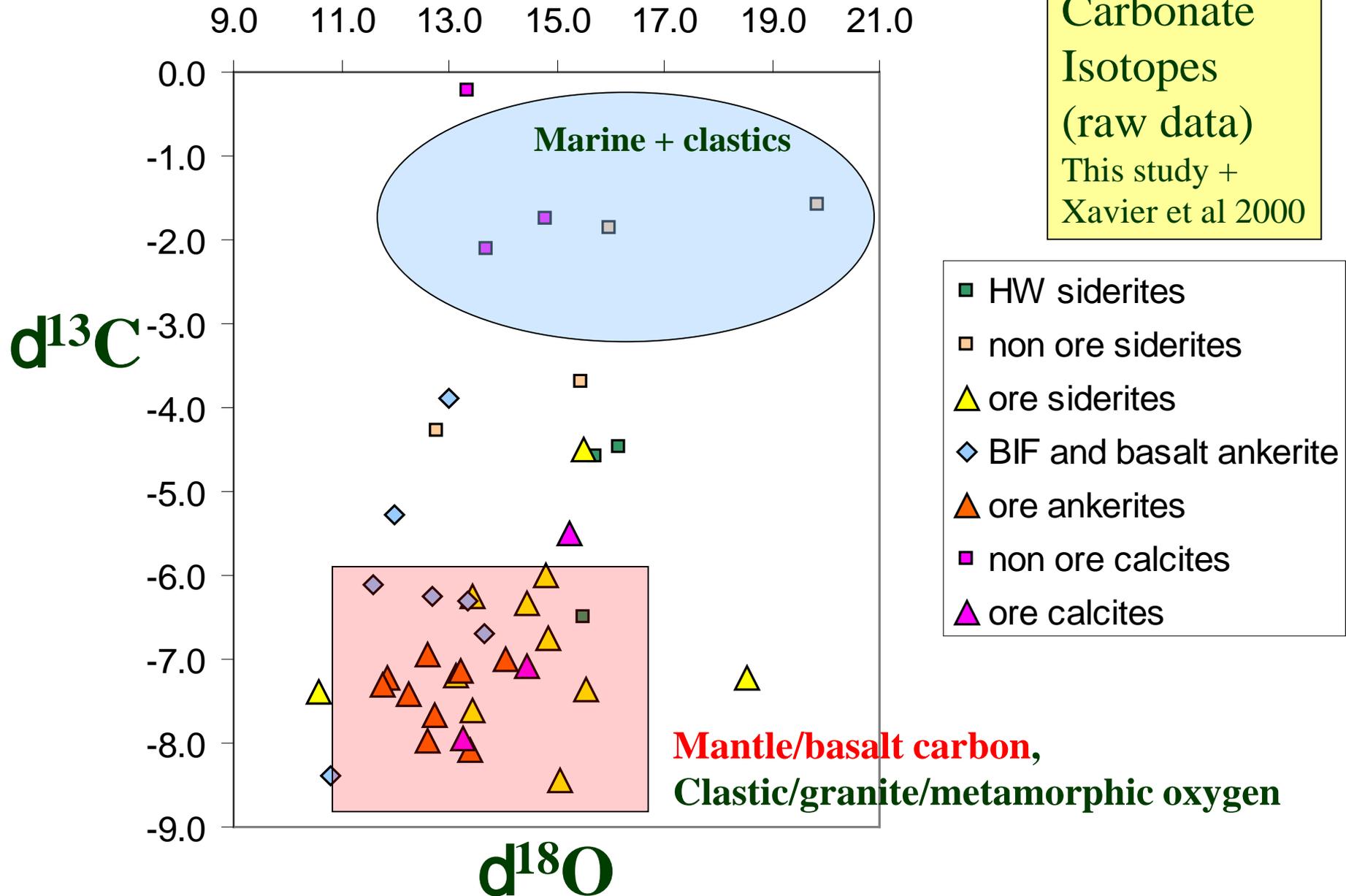
**Qtz (60%)**  
**Mt (<5%)**  
**Sid (35%)**

**Qtz (60%)**  
**Mt (25%)**  
**Sid (15%)**

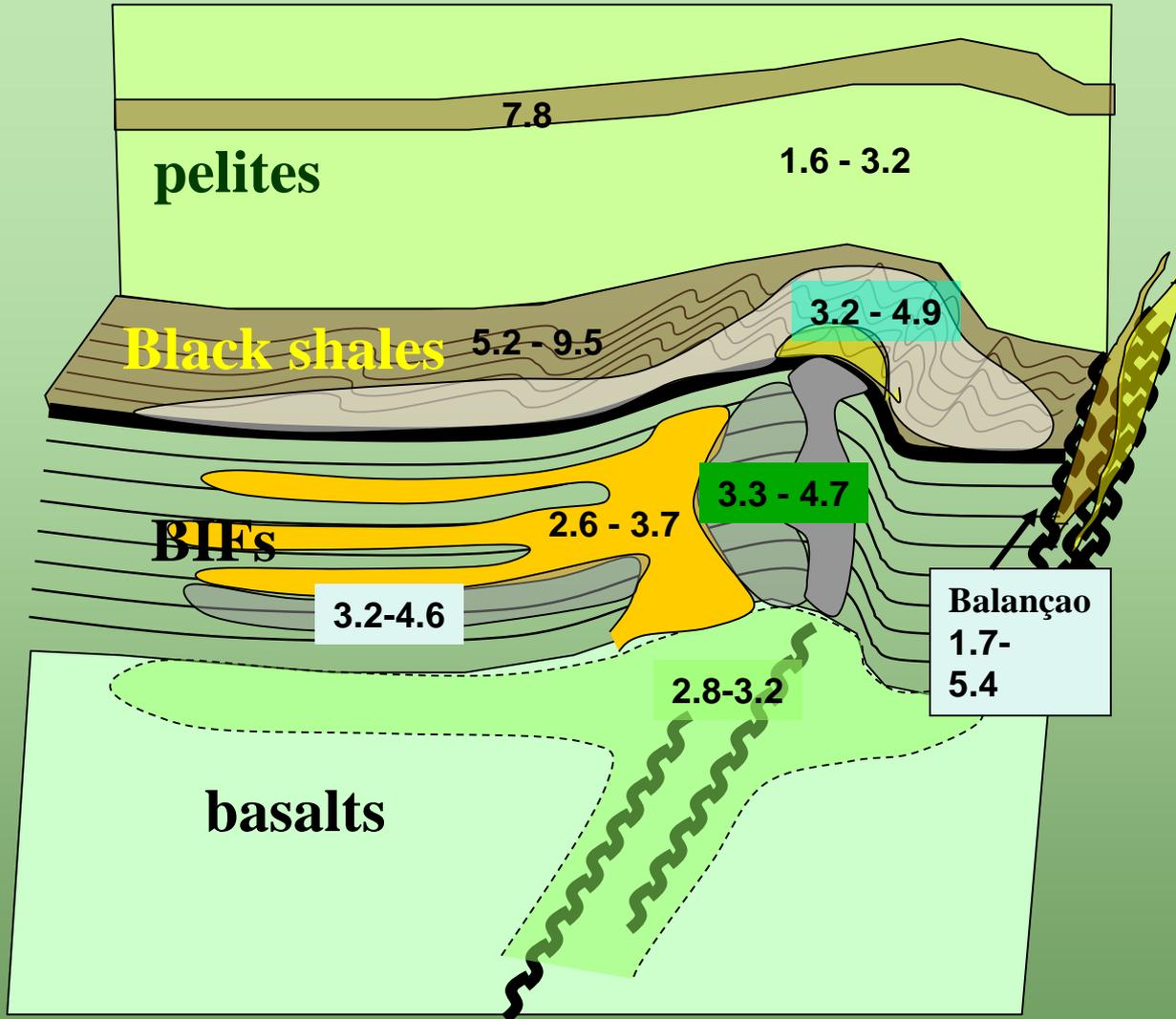




# What is the source of the fluid?



# S isotopes



- S in ores was derived from same source as in basalts
- S in black shales has influenced local ore δ<sup>34</sup>S values
- But magmatic/basaltic S signature penetrates just into immediate hangingwall black shales - consistent with these shales acting as a cap
- Py-po abundance means that SO<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>S fractionation effects can be ignored; i.e. δ<sup>34</sup>S sulphides ≈ δ<sup>34</sup>S fluid

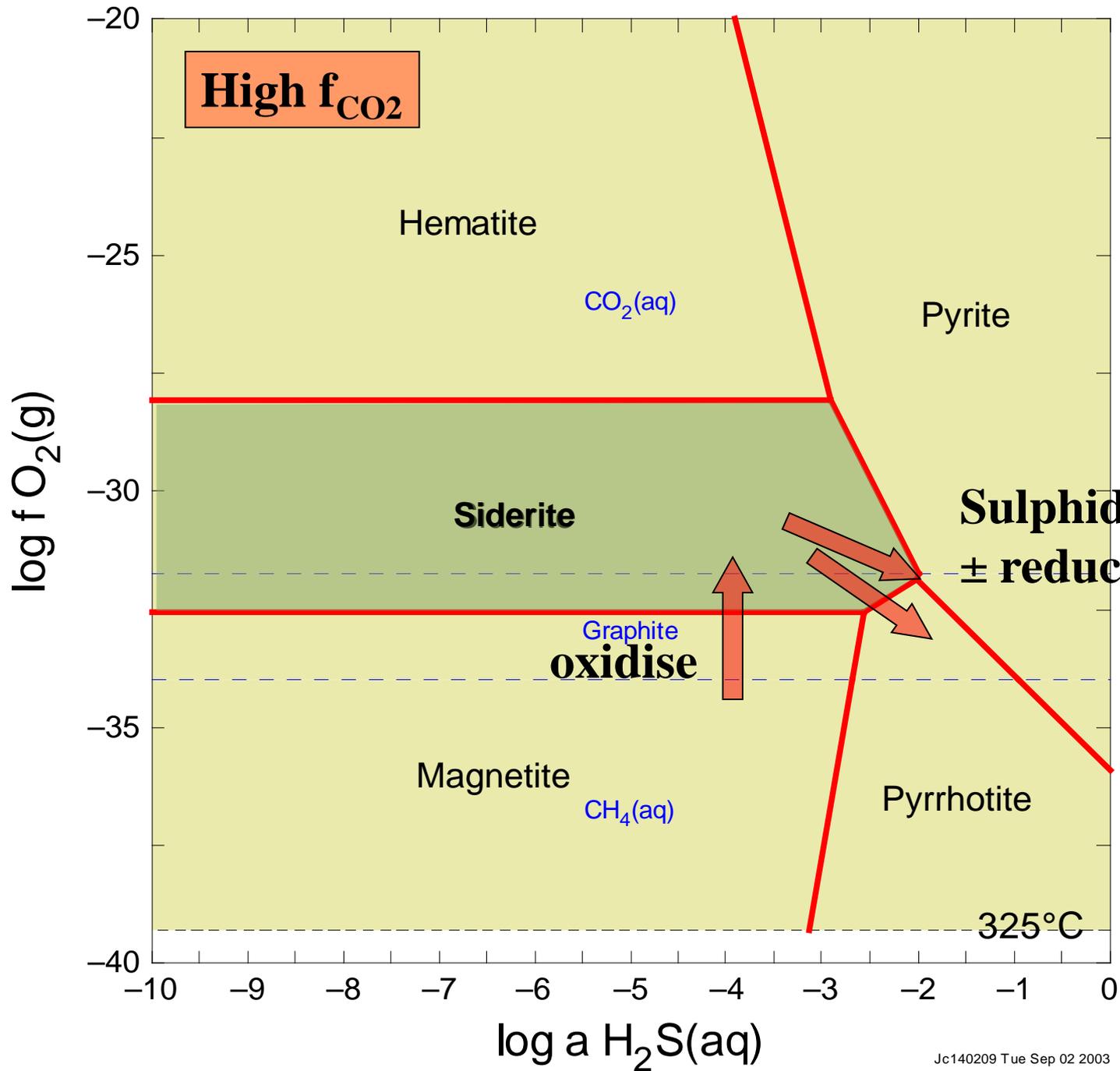


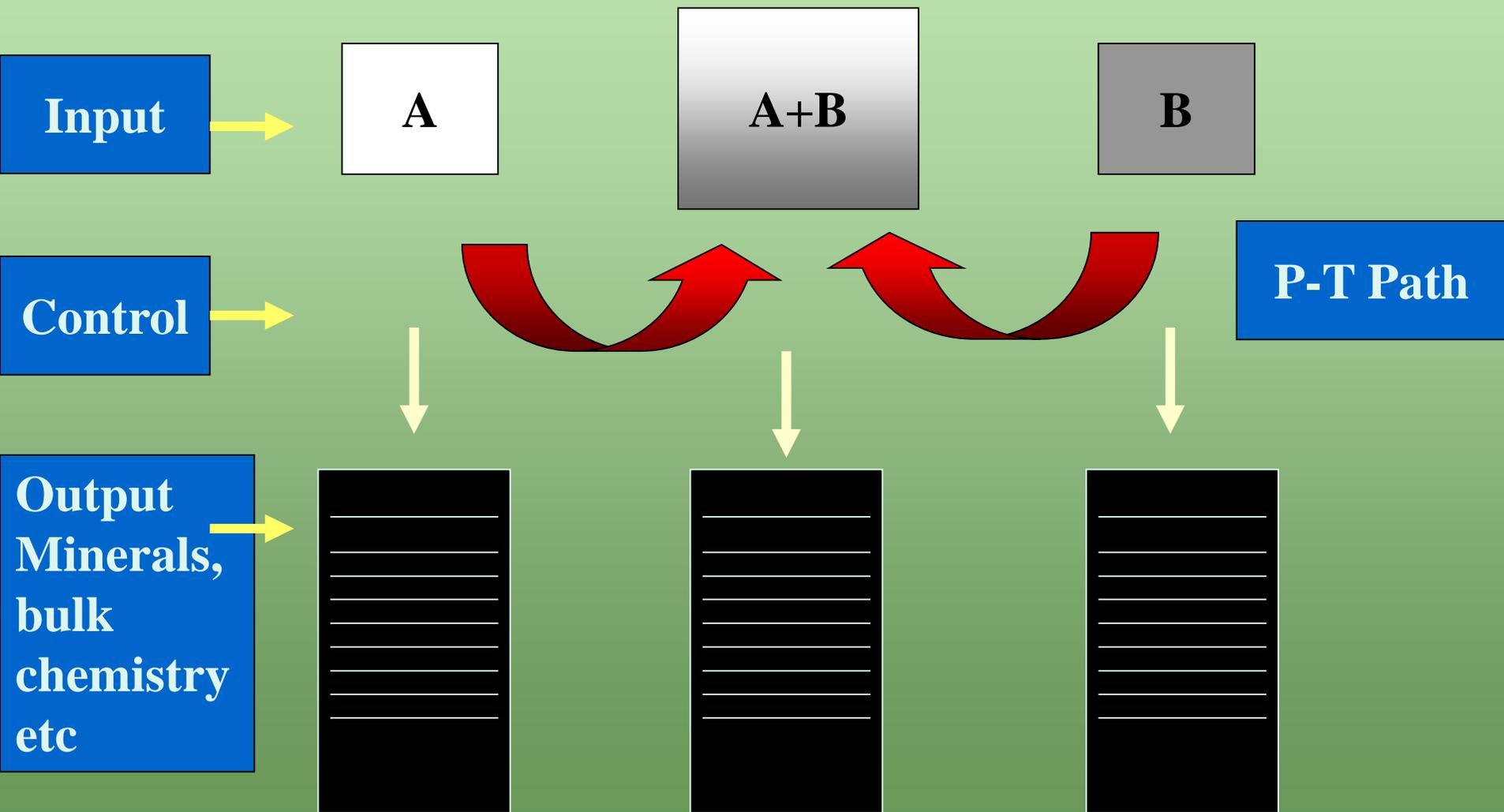
Diagram  $\text{Fe}^{++}$ ,  $T = 325^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $P = 2000$  bars,  $a[\text{main}] = 10^{-2}$ ,  $a[\text{H}_2\text{O}] = 1$ ,  $a[\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})] = 10^{-5}$  (speciates),  $\text{pH} = 4.5$ , Suppressed: Troilite

# HCh: geochemical modelling package

## Advantages for ore deposit studies:

- Powerful and flexible algorithm generator that can be used to model a wide range of geological (fluid-rock) scenarios (up to 5 kbar, 1000°C)
- Well maintained high PT thermodynamic dataset that is available online (FreeGs).
- Thermodynamic data for wide range of metals, metal complexes and S.
- Close collaboration with code developer(s) that provides greater potential in future development directions – industry focus and user interface.

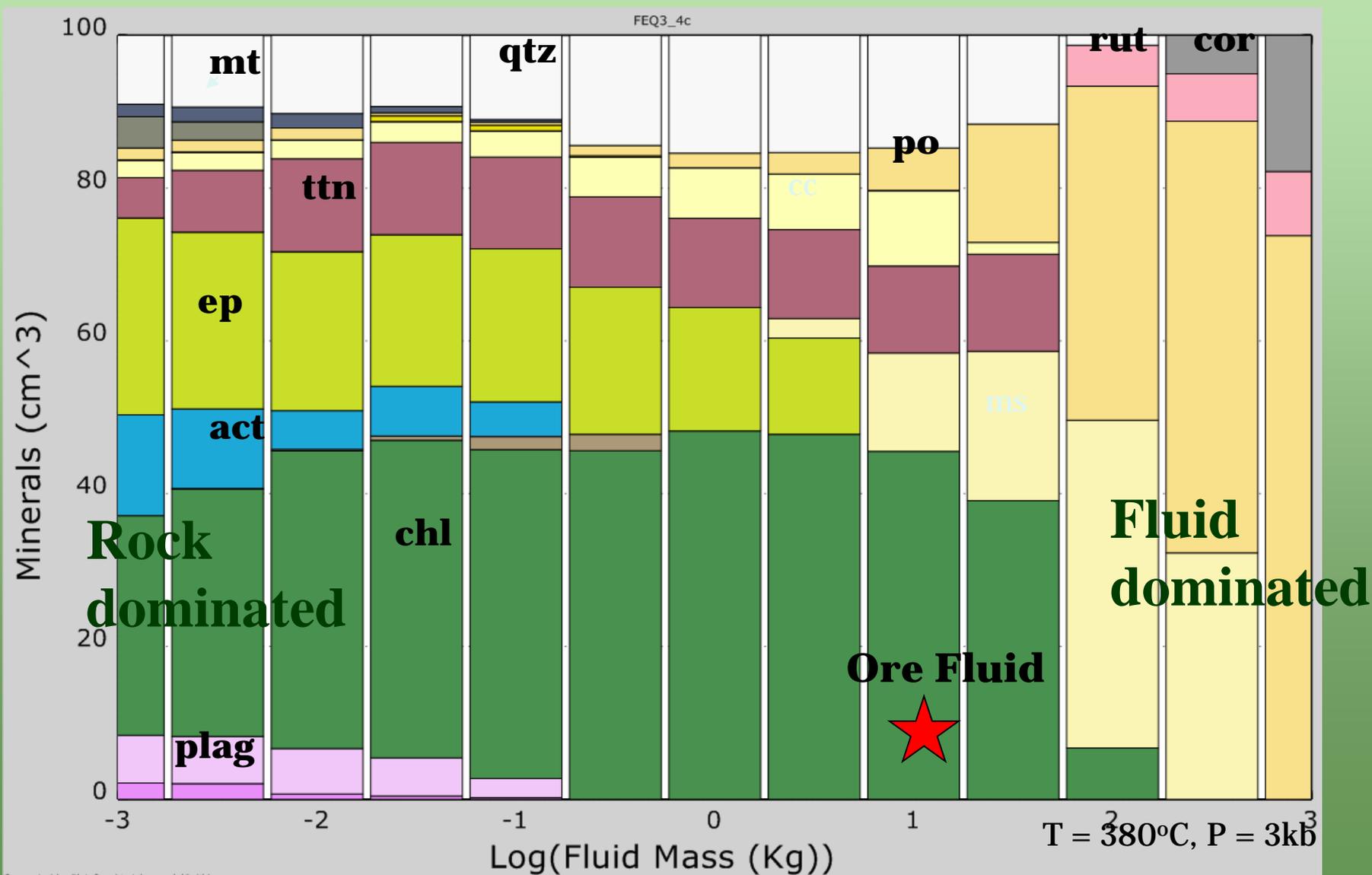
# HCh concept



# Creating an ore fluid: equilibrate a simple fluid with basalt – when assemblage matches, this is a possible ore fluid

Fresh  
Basalt [1]

Increased  
mass of brine

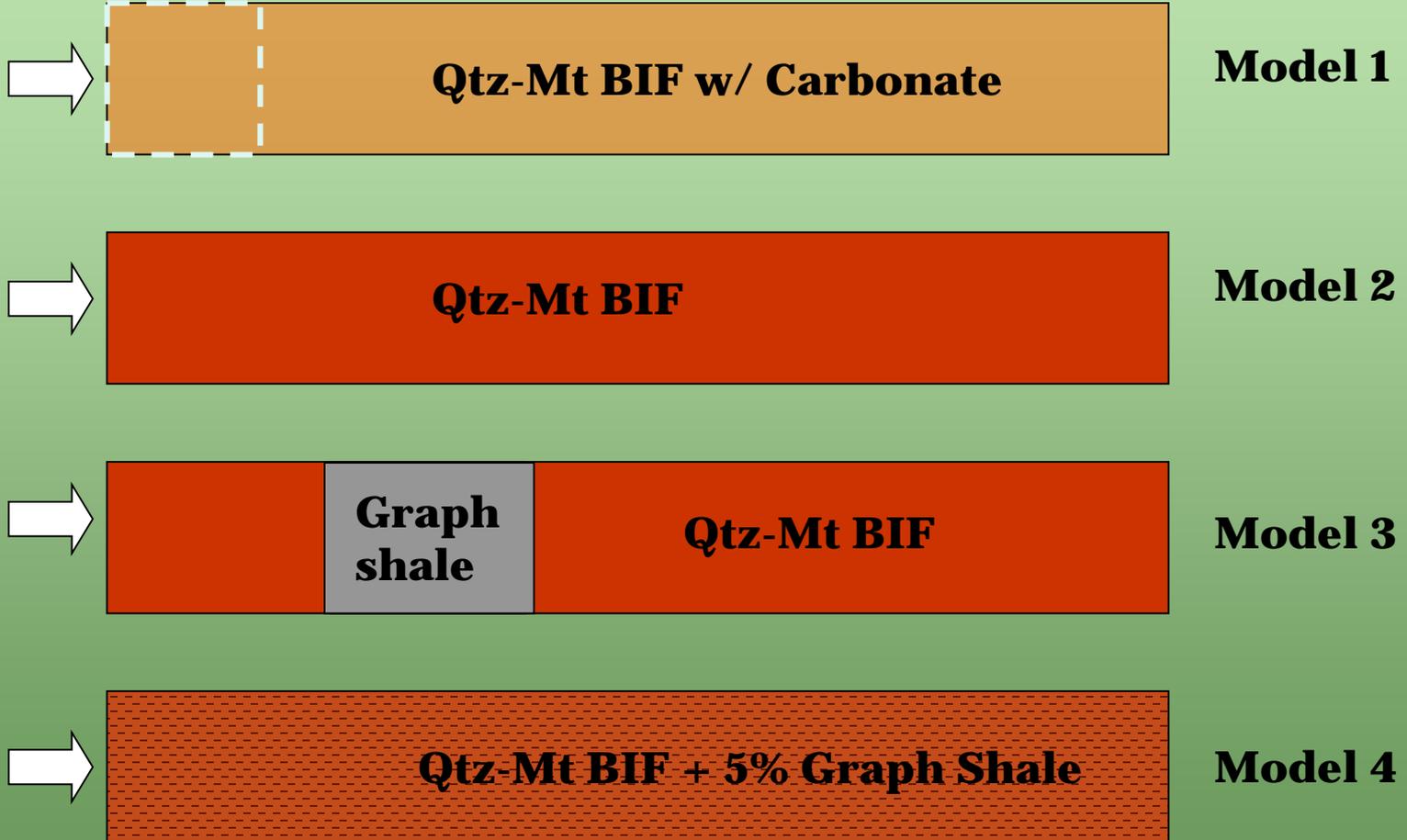


# BIF Alteration and Gold deposition

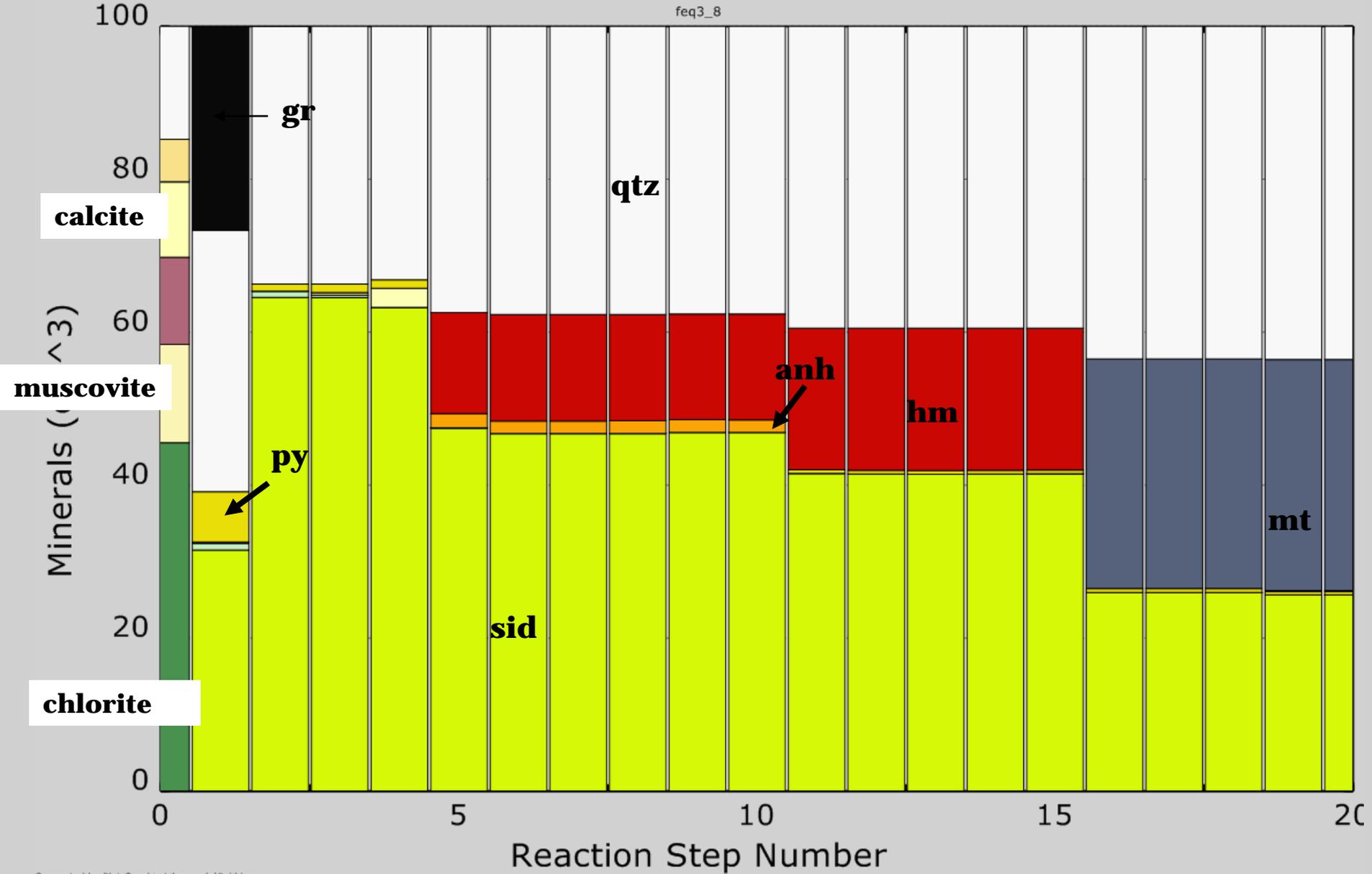
**1kg Basalt +  
10kg Ore  
Fluid**

1 kg rock

300°C 2kb

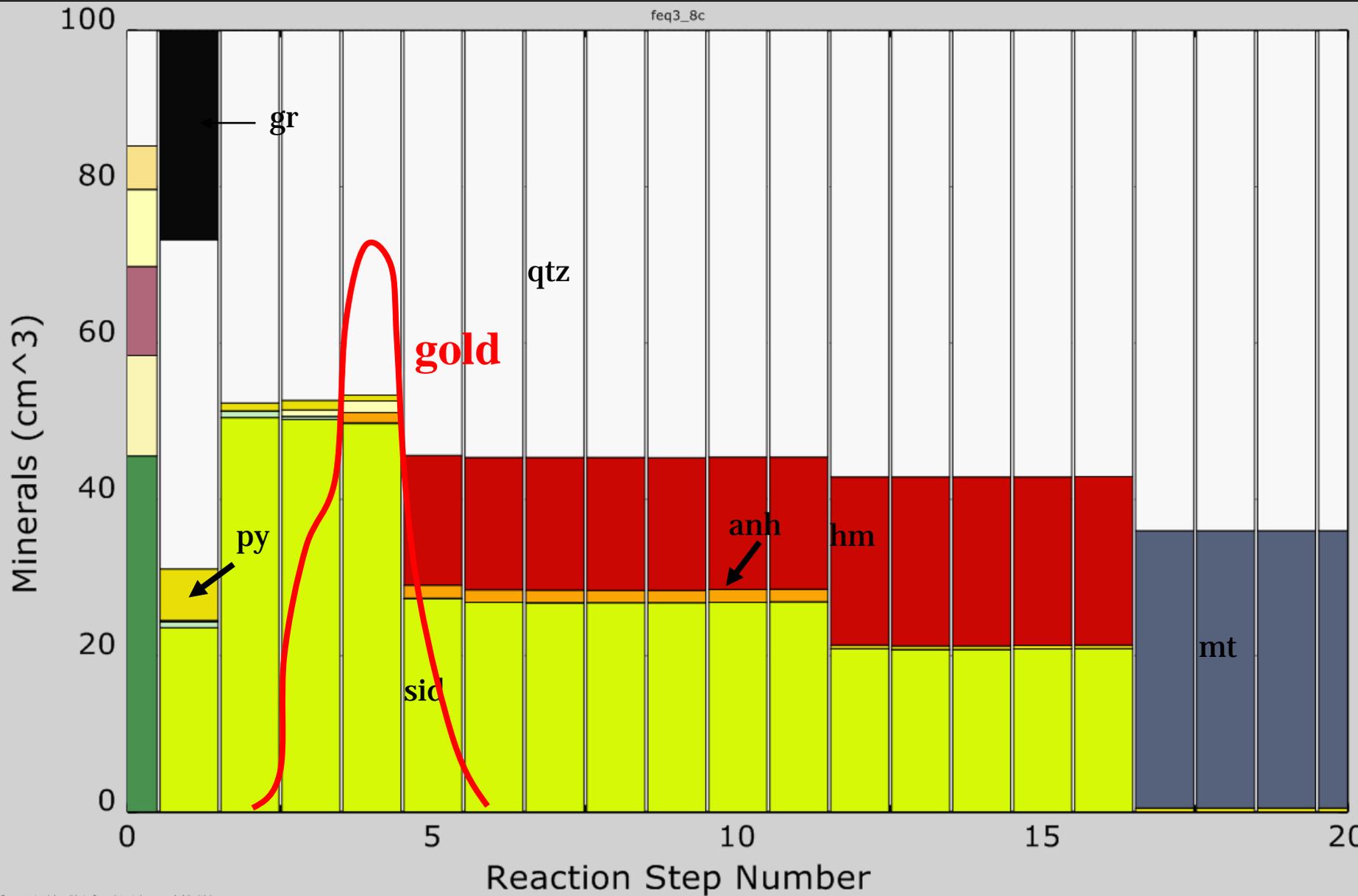


# Model 1: Infiltration of pre-carbonated qtz-mt BIF

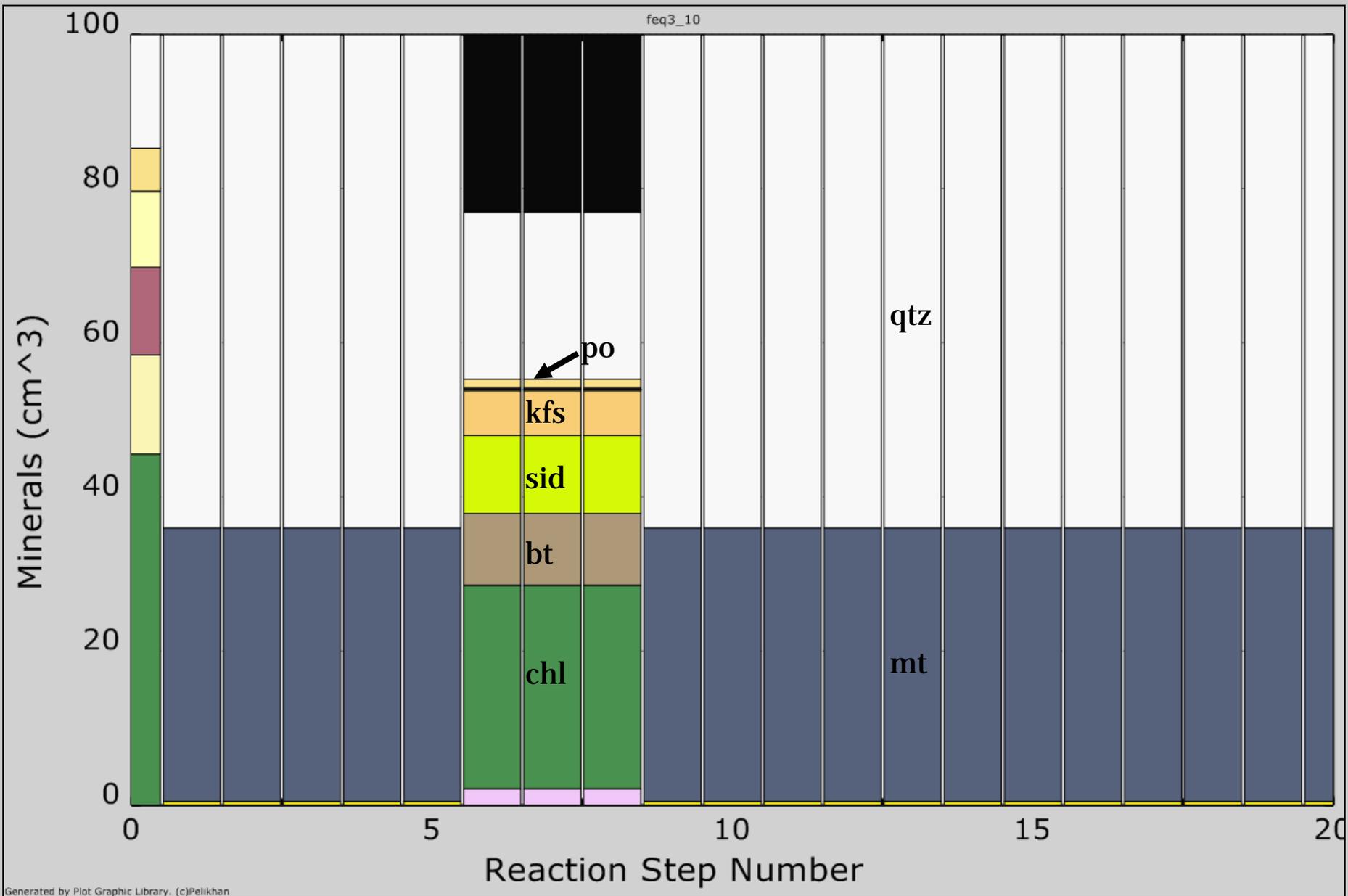


# Model 2: Infiltration of fresh qtz-mt BIF (no pre-carbonate alteration)

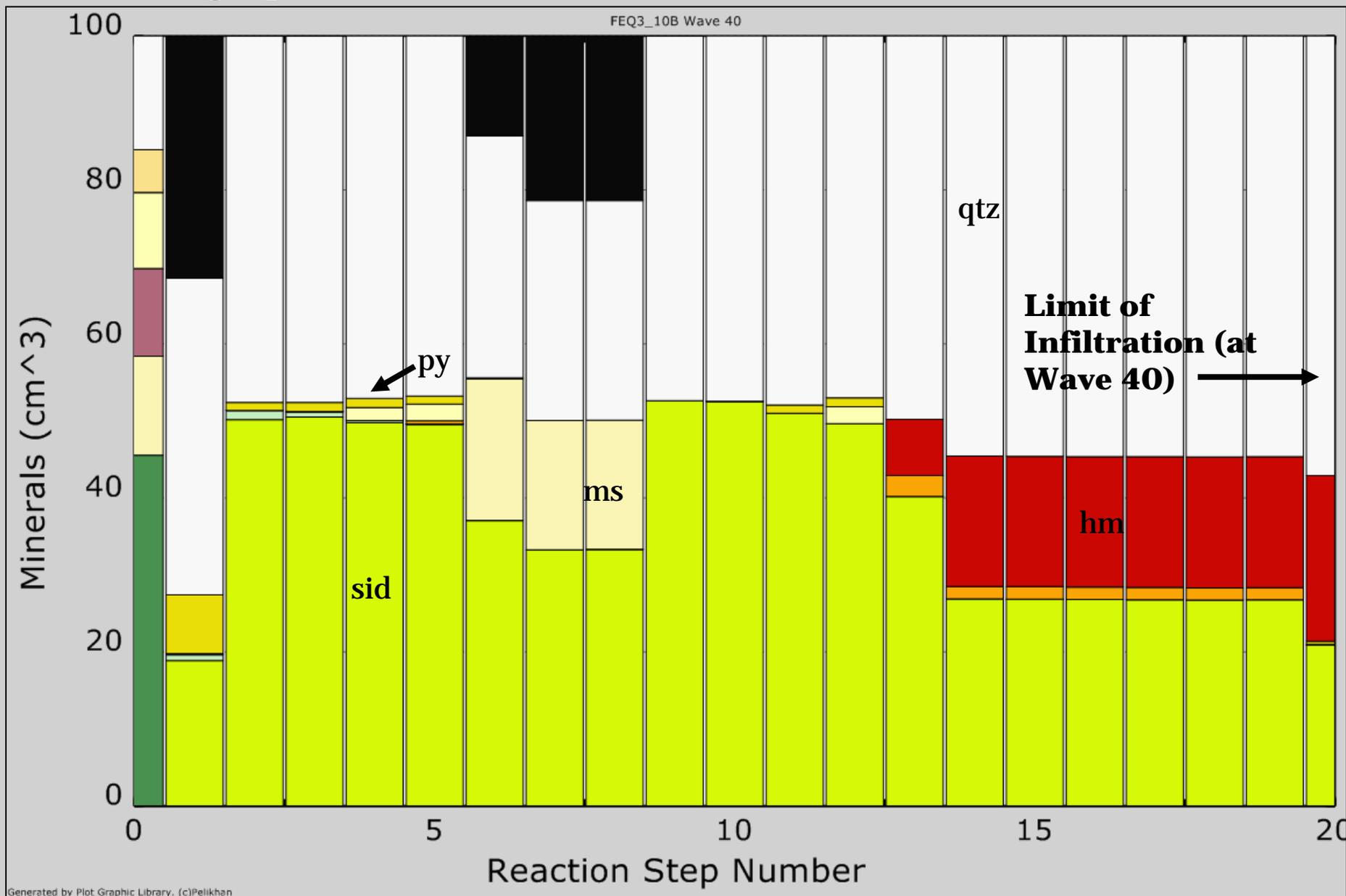
Gold



# Model 3: Infiltration of fresh qtz-mt BIF with graphitic shale in middle



# Model 3: Infiltration of fresh qtz-mt BIF with graphitic shale in middle

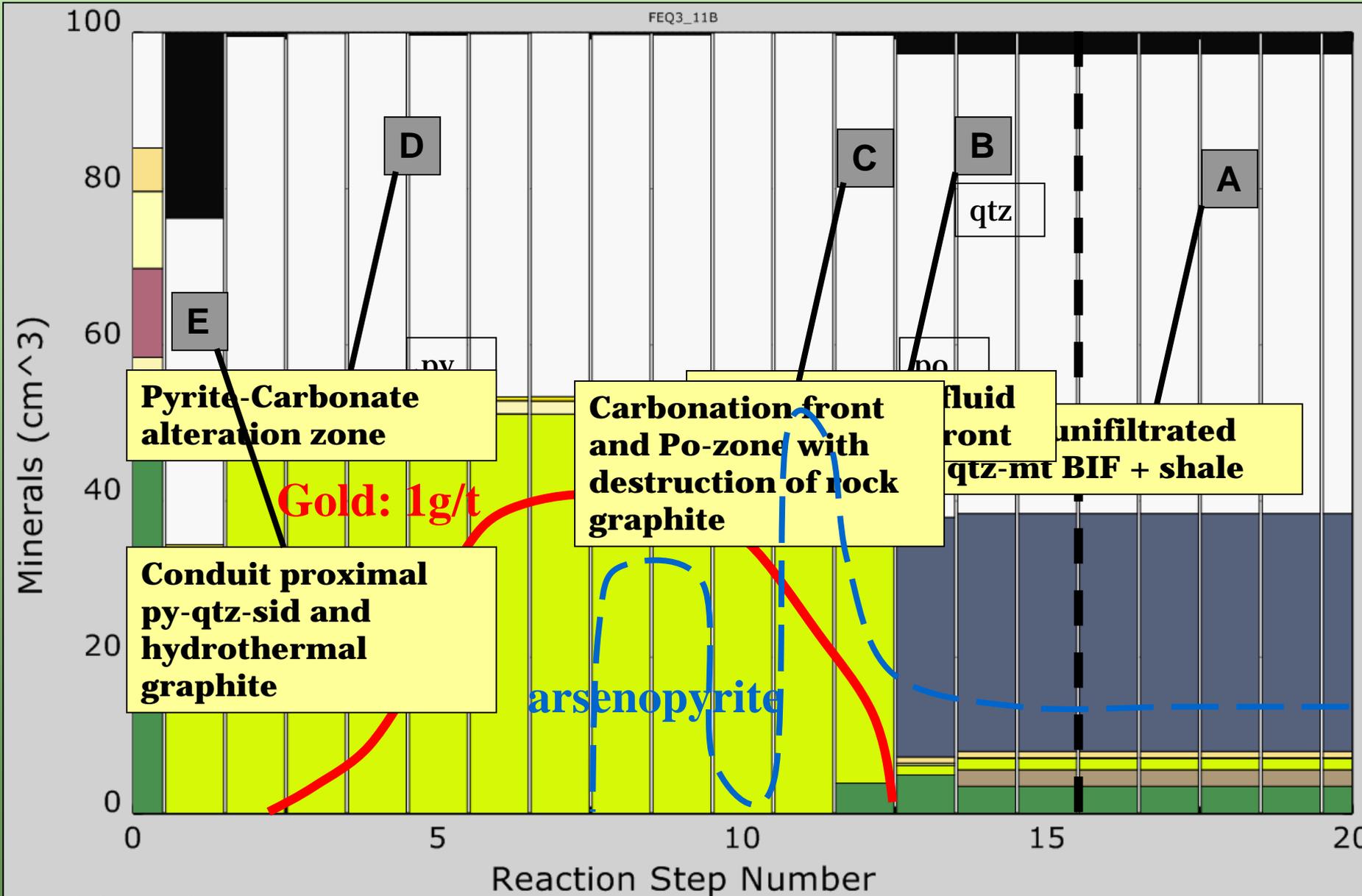


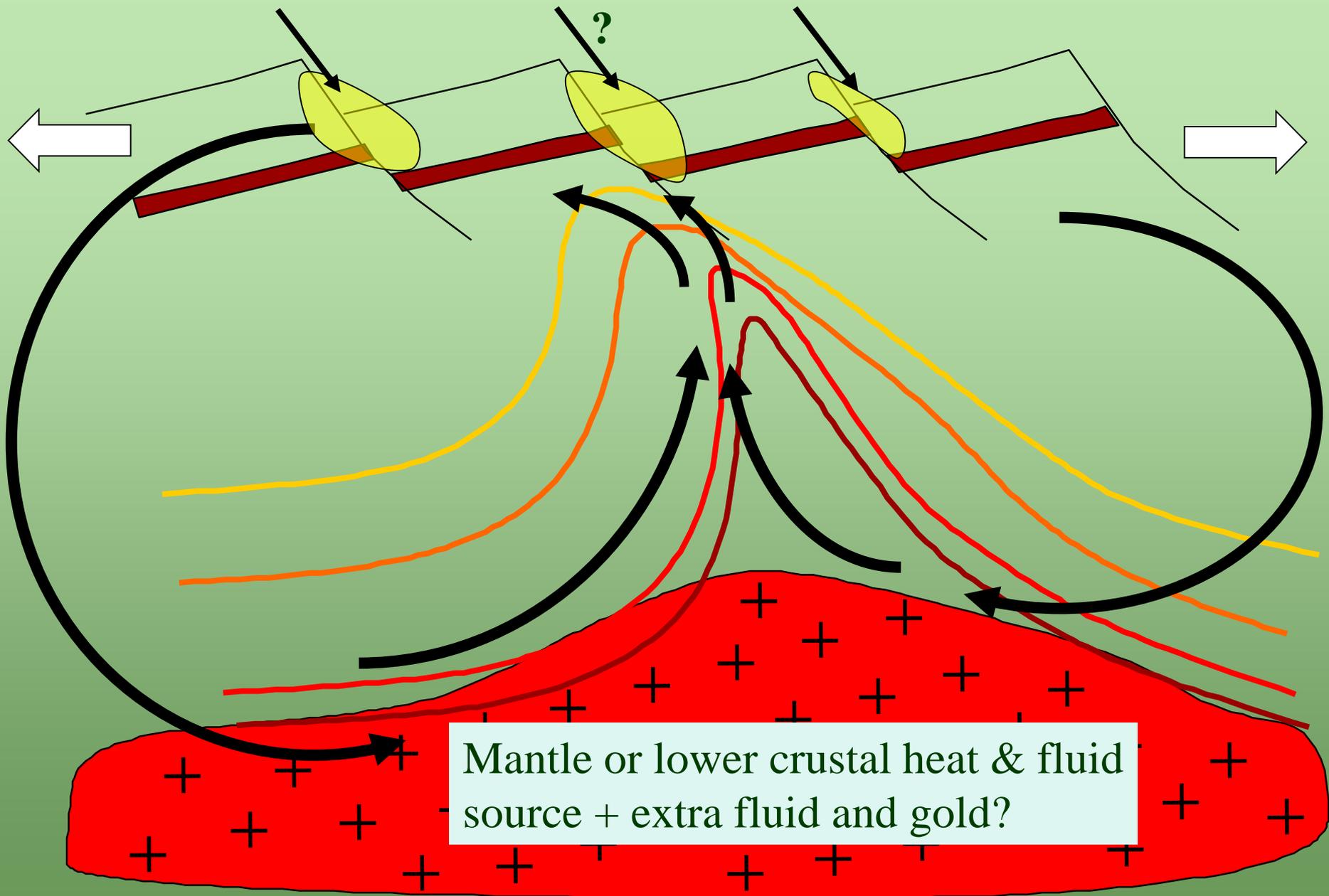
# Model 4

- Infiltrate ore fluid through BIF with 5% graphitic shale distributed through out.
- Causes reduced assemblages throughout and without the oxidised assemblages at the most distal portion.
- Good match between model and reality but probably not enough sulfidation
- Extra sulfur – magmatic sulfur from depth?

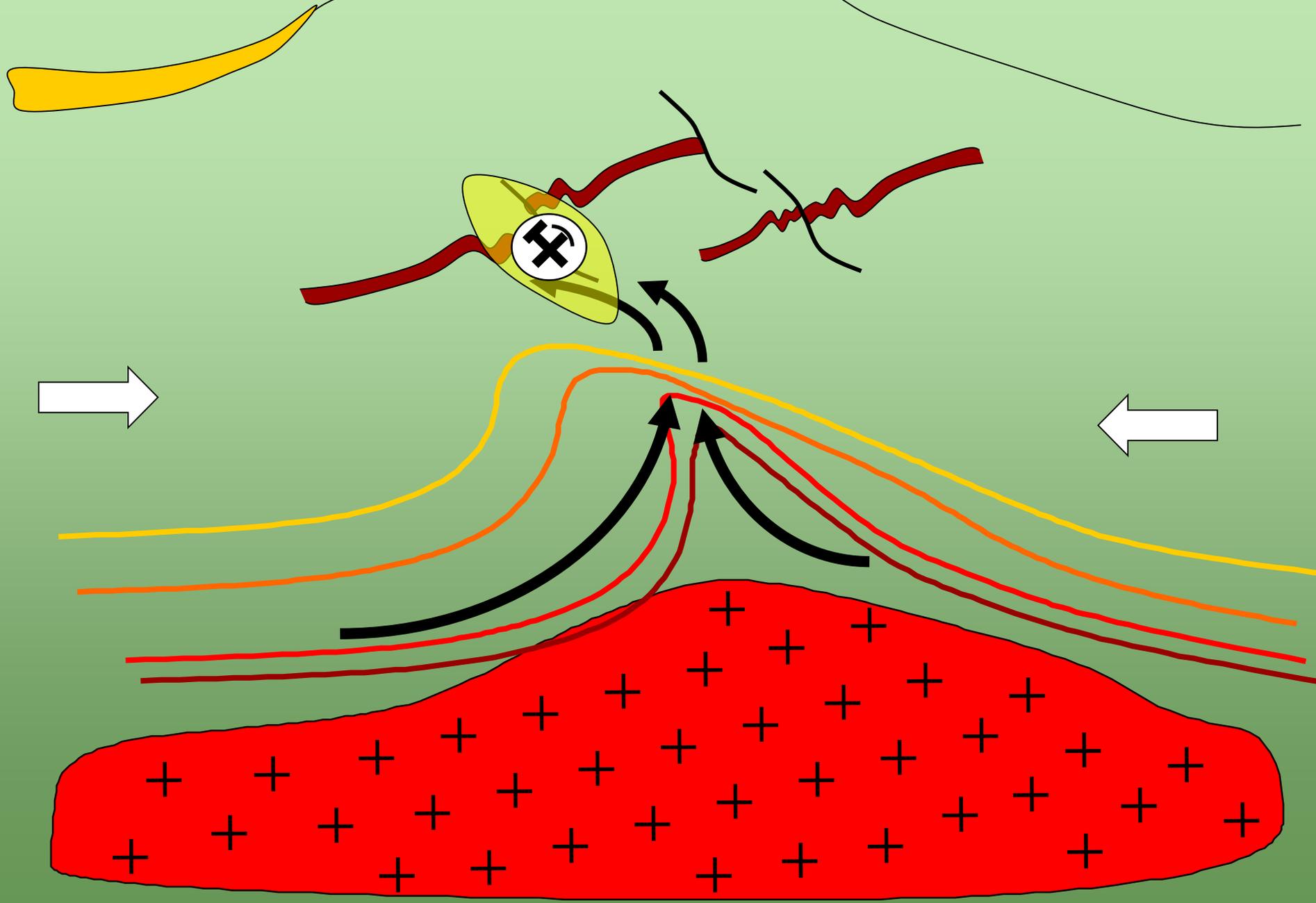
**Model 4: Infiltration of fresh qtz-mt BIF mixed with 5% graphitic shale**

Gold is lower grade and more distributed: need more sulfur and gold in fluid than modelled – extra source?





Moeda deposition ?



Key finding	Potential impact on exploration and mine development
Weak Ag anomalism detected in hangingwall sediments above Cuiabá and Lamego	<i>PIMA work on micas, with corresponding mineral chemistry (electron probe) should be trialled to see if a quicker exploration method exists for distal ore signals.</i>
K, As, S, Au, Ba, CO <sub>2</sub> added to BIFs and proximal footwall basalts by external fluid; Ag, Sb and Si leached from distal footwall basalts; Fe, Ca, C, Zn, Cr, Mn, Mo lost from mineralized BIFs	Only useful for exploration in footwall basalts and BIFs; <i>PIMA/radiometrics for K alteration intensity and mica chemistry may be the cheapest method of detection.</i> High S and As also distinctive for both ore-proximal basalts and BIFs. Feeders are potentially recognisable at mine scales.
Geochemical models require intercalated black shales in BIF, S isotopes and geochem also indicate hangingwall black shales acted as a trap/cap	<i>Black shales are crucial.</i> These deposits must have good black shale association for high grade, otherwise the magnetite/siderite cannot cause sufficient sulfidation and gold deposition. <i>Black shale S isotopes (if BIF hasn't been detected in core but black shale has) could potentially indicate ore proximity: 5 to 10‰ = distal, 3 to 5‰ = proximal</i>

- **Main exploration outcome: recognise F1 hinges, then target BIFs with intimately associated graphitic schists**
- **Main mining outcome: recognition of feeder structures can help with prediction of down-plunge orebody extensions. Pay attention to graphitized BIF**



**The end.**